

# King County Healthcare Coalition

## Monthly Update

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July 24, 2006  
Healthcare Coalition Monthly Update

The Healthcare Coalition planning effort is focused on (1) building the infrastructure to support greater coordination across the community's diverse health system, (2) developing coordinated surge capacity strategies and plans, and (3) supporting pandemic preparedness planning throughout the healthcare community.

The Healthcare Coalition is comprised of over 35 health care organizations and agencies. The next meeting of executives from Coalition member organizations will be in the Fall of 2006. Current priorities include pandemic flu and surge planning, strengthening the governance structure through the creation of the Executive Council, recruiting more Coalition members from non-hospital providers, and developing an on-going budget, staffing plan, and work groups. There is now a web page for the Coalition that can be accessed through the Public Health website ([www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition)). (Coalition staff contacts – Richard Marks 206-322-0971 and Carmen Alvarado 206-296-5079)

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## WORKGROUP/ COMMITTEE INFORMATION & UPDATES

### Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

(Staff contacts – Dr. Gary Goldbaum, PHSKC at 206-296-4991 & Aimée Welch, PHSKC at 206-205-4145)

The ACPWG is developing surge capacity plans for ambulatory care and triage services. The group is developing strategies that will expand outpatient care and telephone triage and reduce demand on hospital emergency rooms and inpatient facilities.

- The Work Group has completed its initial plans, which will be made public in August. The Work Group is restructuring to address implementation issues.

### Critical Care Work Group

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin at 206-296-4814, Mark Tonelli, MD at [tonelli@u.washington.edu](mailto:tonelli@u.washington.edu))

This work group is comprised of Critical Care Directors from Coalition hospitals. Public Health will be contracting with Dr. Mark Tonelli, from the University of Washington to develop altered standards of care and clinical and staffing guidelines for mass critical care.

- Dr. Tonelli will initiate his work in June 2006 and will present his preliminary recommendations to the Work Group in the fall.

### Legal Work Group

(Staff contact – Amy Eiden, PHSKC at 206-205-5091)

This group is comprised of attorneys representing hospitals and government entities in King County. The Legal Work Group has started review of King County protocol for delivery of health officer isolation orders to hospitalized persons

- The group recently conducted a work session with attorneys from state and other legal jurisdictions to review progress on written Q&A about current public health and emergency laws.
- They have also met with King County Medical Society/Bar Association committee to discuss liability risks during periods of altered standards of care.

### Medical Directors Committee

(Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PHSKC at 206-296-4814)

The Medical Directors will provide expertise and leadership for issues related to clinical care during any health emergency where large-scale emergency response and/or changes in routine healthcare delivery are necessary. The Medical Directors will review and develop clinical policies, protocols, practice standards, and plans that are relevant to emergency response.

- The Medical Directors met on July 20<sup>th</sup>. They discussed potential, medical resource distribution approaches, surge models and Pandemic Flu employee training.
- Below is a link to the PowerPoint Presentation on employee training presented at the meeting. If you have comments on the training please provide them to Kay Koelemay, [kathryn.koelemay@metrokc.gov](mailto:kathryn.koelemay@metrokc.gov).

[www.metrokc.gov/health/training/pandemic-flu.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/training/pandemic-flu.htm)

### Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

(Staff contact – Cynthia Dold, PHSKC at 206-205-0456)

This committee meets monthly to discuss a variety of hospital and healthcare emergency preparedness issues which includes surge capacity, evacuation planning, resource management, and training & exercises. The committee is currently working on the following issues:

- Finalizing work on a comprehensive assessment of current, disaster and catastrophic hospital capacity.
- Determining HRSA 2006 funding priorities. Their list is due to DOH by the end of July along with their 2005 HRSA Year End Report.
- Revising their Regional Hospital Response Plan.
- Developing the Regional Medical Resource Center

## PROJECT INFORMATION & UPDATES

### Alternate Facilities Project

(Staff contact – Anthony Cebollero, PHSKC at 206-205-8621)

Anthony Cebollero has been hired as the Alternate Facilities Project Manager. He will work with partners to establish emergency facilities that can provide triage, ambulatory care, observation, and palliative care. These facilities will be designed to supplement the regular health care system in the event of emergencies that generate demand that exceeds existing surge capacity, i.e. “super surge”.

### Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

(Staff contact – Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213)

The RMRC is the linchpin for coordinated operational preparedness and response. The Center will monitor and distribute human and medical resources among participating Healthcare Coalition organizations and facilities based on the objectives of the emergency response.

- Planning and development of the RMRC will commence in July 2006. The RMRC Project Manager will work in collaboration with the Region 6 Hospital Preparedness Committee, PHSKC and other key partners to develop the RMRC.

### King County Call Center Project

(Project Manager, Joe Cropley at 206-517-2383)

This project will document the existing call center capacity of participating health-related and medical organizations and will develop strategies to increase capacity. The Project will address medical phone advice and triage, as well as other public information needs. The project will involve the participation of 911 and 211 systems, Group Health and Evergreen Hospital, the Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Management, Sound Telecom, and Public Health. Joe Cropley, from the Washington Poison Center, is the Project Manager for the Call Center Project.

- Joe has had initial meetings with King County Office of Emergency Management, King County Sheriff's Office Communications Center, Group Health Consulting Nurse Services, and Children's Hospital Pediatric Resource Line Call Center. He is also attending the regional 911 Dispatch Pandemic Flu Planning Meetings. So far the response from all of these groups has been one of great enthusiasm.

## OTHER UPDATES

- Public Health is trying to arrange a meeting with insurers to discuss a number of insurance and reimbursement issues that have been raised in surge planning. Critical issues are reimbursement for telephone consultations, relaxation of network rules, pre-certification and authorization, and timely filing of claims.
- Free personal and family pandemic flu preparedness brochures: *Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: A Personal and Family Guide* is an excellent resource for educating employees about the potential impact of pandemic flu, and giving them the tools and the encouragement to prepare now. Free copies (including delivery) in English and Spanish are available through the Washington State Department of Health Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family\\_brochure.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family_brochure.htm) (click on General Store Website link to order brochures).
- Stop Germs posters for common areas – promoting frequent hand washing, covering coughs, and staying home when sick. Examples available on the web at [www.metrokc.gov/health/stopgerms](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/stopgerms). To order a supply of posters, contact Dolores Rossman of Public Health's Stop Germs campaign team at 206-205-3310 or [dolores.rossman@metrokc.gov](mailto:dolores.rossman@metrokc.gov).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee  
July 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 10:00 am @ RCECC
- Legal Workgroup Meeting  
July 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 – 11:00 am @ Children's Hospital
- Healthcare Coalition Steering Committee Meeting  
August 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm @ the Wells Fargo Center
- Ambulatory Care Implementation Group Meeting  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:30am – 10:30 am @ King County Medical Society

**For more information about the Healthcare Coalition or this update, contact:**

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